

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 03249 101233Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9150

S E C R E T BANGKOK 3249

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, VN

SUBJECT: U.S.- VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 028546 (B) BANGKOK 3150

1. AMBASSADOR SAW UNDER SECRETARY WONG PHONNIKON AT MINISTRY MORNING OF FEBRUARY 10 AND CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF REF A. WONG SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER WHO WERE AT AN ALL-DAY CABINET MEETING. WONG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AT OUR KEEPING RTG INFORMED AND SAID THAT THE THAI SHARED OUR HOPE THAT TALKS MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

2. LATER IN THE DAY, THE AMBASSADOR WAS INVITED TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO SAID THAT THE RTG WAS VERY PLEASED AT HAVING BEEN INFORMED OF OUR FORTHCOMING CONTACTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE. HE SAID THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT ALSO WISHED TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH HANOI AND NOTED THAT HE HAD DISCREETLY NOTIFIED HANOI THAT THE RTG CONSIDERED THE AUGUST 6 COMMUNIQUE TO BE IN EFFECT AND HAD DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE SRV TO THE FACT THAT THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE THE EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. THE SRV REPLIED THAT THIS WAS PREMATURE AND THAT CONTACT BETWEEN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 03249 101233Z

THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BY THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN VIENTIANE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD REPLIED TO THE VIETNAMESE THAT THE RTG WAS AGREEABLE TO THIS PROCEDURE BUT TALKS HAD NOT YET BEGUN IN LAOS.

3. THE MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF THE

THAI GOVERNMENT THAT IF THE U.S. SUCCEEDED IN
NORMALIZING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE,
IT WOULD NOT GRANT THE VIETNAMESE ANY AID WHICH
MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THE SRV MORE DANGEROUS
TO ITS NEIGHBORS. I REPLIED THAT I UNDERSTOOD
THAT THIS WAS RTG POLICY AND WOULD REPORT THE
MINISTER'S VIEWS TO WASHINGTON.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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